

A 1950 BETRAYAL IS LAID TO PHILBY

British Spy Linked to a Plan
for Uprising in Albania

Special to The New York Times

LONDON, Sunday, Oct. 15—

The Sunday Times said today that H.A.R. ("Kim") Philby, the senior British intelligence officer who defected to the Soviet Union in 1963, betrayed to the Russians a British-American plan to foment anti-Soviet uprisings in Albania in 1950 that cost the lives of about 150 guerrillas.

The newspaper said that Philby, who went to Washington in 1949 as liaison man between Britain's Secret Intelligence Service and the Central Intelligence Agency, had been in charge of the joint operation, which it called "one of the most extraordinary secrets of the cold war."

The newspaper said "A 'Committee of Free Albanians,' based in Italy, and apparently a front organization for recruiting guerrillas," had been organized when the clandestine operation began in the spring of 1950. It said guerrilla bands slipped "up into the mountains and over the border into Albania."

The plan, according to The Times, which gave no source for its account, was for the guerrillas "to make for their old homes and try to stir up trouble." Within a month, the article said, about 150 of the guerrillas "were either killed or captured," and "150 survivors struggled back into Greece."

Americans Suspect Treachery

"The Russians just seemed to know they were coming," the newspaper said. It added: "The Americans were uneasily convinced of treachery. And what few indications there were were pointed to Philby, they thought. But in Britain, the [intelligence service] appear not to have accepted even the evidence of treachery."

The newspaper, in other parts of its third installment on the Philby affair, continued to focus on Soviet penetration of British intelligence. It accused the intelligence service of having stood by Philby, who is alleged to have spied for the Soviet Union for 30 years, with "an extraordinary, apparently inexplicable determination."

The newspaper reported several incidents that it said should have created doubts about Philby's loyalties. It detailed one that occurred in Istanbul in 1945, after Philby, in London, had been accused of espionage against the Russians.

A man who gave his name as Volkov showed up at the British Consulate in Istanbul in August of that year, and offered to sell information on Soviet espionage operations, including the names of Soviet agents operating in Government departments in London, according to The Times.

Pose Reported

Volkov, who said he posed as the newly appointed Soviet consul in Istanbul, stated that intelligence for Turkey, the paper said. He gave the British official who interviewed him "a batch of handwritten notes and sketches," according to The Times. The newspaper said that "this was an outline of what he had to sell."

The British official was said to have reported the interview to the Ambassador, Sir Maurice Peterson, who, according to The Times replied, "If you must go ahead with this business, do it through London."

The account said Volkov was told that "London would have to have time to make a decision on the proposition." It said Volkov agreed to wait 21 days, and that "if he had not heard by the evening of 21st day, he would assume the deal was off."

After several reminders to London without responses, The Times said, "the diplomat who had interviewed Volkov had still heard nothing, and was almost frantic."

Philby Said to Appear

On the morning of the 21st day, according to the newspaper, Philby arrived. He "produced, casually, an almost incredible excuse," the paper said, saying: "Sorry, old man. It would have interested with leave arrangements."

The paper said that the British official had told The Times that after trying unsuccessfully to contact Volkov, and getting no further explanation of the delay, he told his friends later "that either Philby was criminally incompetent, or he was a Soviet agent himself." He was said to have added that he passed on his doubts to an intelligence officer.

Previous disclosures in The Times and The Observer, which is also printing a series of articles on the Philby case, have stated that Philby became a Soviet agent as early as 1933.

'An Element of Fiction'

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 14—The Central Intelligence Agency declined to comment today on the latest reports concerning Harold Philby.

Other well-informed sources here said competition between British newspapers for new disclosures concerning the Philby case had introduced an element of fiction into some sort of the printed accounts.

British reporters have spent time here in the last year attempting to learn more of Philby's activities during his assignment in Washington.

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